

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 874

By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Ralph Greeley Stout for his meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Greeley Stout is one such noteworthy person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a resident of Mountain City, Ralph Stout is a highly respected member of his community; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenures as a jeweler, watchmaker, and referee, Mr. Stout has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, upon his graduation from Johnson County High School in 1939, Mr. Stout attended Lincoln Memorial University; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, Mr. Stout entered the United States Navy and heroically served this country during World War II; and

WHEREAS, after his honorable service in the United States Navy, he attended Elgin Watchmaker College and in 1946 began his employment with Allen Stout & Son Jewelry Store, which he currently owns and operates; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated role model for young people, Ralph Stout has also served with distinction for decades as a football and basketball official in high school and collegiate

competition, earning the unbridled respect and admiration of coaches, players, and fans alike for his fairness, skill, and good judgment; and

WHEREAS, serving with the utmost dedication and character as an official for the Volunteer State Athletic Conference (VSAC), the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC), the Southeastern Conference (SEC), the Southern Basketball Conference (SBC), the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), and the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA), Mr. Stout has protected the integrity of the game, ensuring fair play and competition for all student-athletes; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Stout has been recognized with numerous honors, including the Southern Conference Golden Whistle Award in 1971 and 1972, the ACC Basketball Tournament Official Award from 1968 through 1971, the SEC Distinguished Service Award from 1961 through 1975, the SEC Distinguished Official Award in 1996, the OVC Distinguished Service Award recognizing fifty-seven years of service in 2006, the OVC Distinguished Football Award recognizing sixty-two years of service, the Tennessee Prep Outstanding Football Official in 1986, the TSSAA Award of Merit recognizing fifty years of service in 2000, and he was named the Distinguished Collegiate Official Coordinator in 2008; and

WHEREAS, recognizing his many outstanding contributions to the field of sports, Mr. Stout has also been inducted into the TSSAA Hall of Fame in 1984, the Upper East Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 1987, and the TSHF Sports Hall of Fame in 1996, and the Mountain City Municipal Park was named the Ralph Stout Park in 1983 in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Stout's remarkable success as an official is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in his community, he is a member of several esteemed and notable community organizations, including the Jaycees, who named him Young Man of the Year in 1950, and the Lions Club, who named him Man of the Year in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stout also served with honor and distinction for nineteen years as Mayor of Mountain City, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and constituents alike for his esteemed leadership and public service; and

WHEREAS, epitomizing the ideal of the dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor, Mr. Stout has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity throughout his exemplary life; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Ralph Stout is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Margie Marie Baker; his two sons, Howard (Sonny) A. Stout and Jeffery Stout; his three daughters, Mary Elizabeth Slatery, Linda Sue Nelson, and Carole Ann Shore; his twelve grand children; and his nineteen great-grand children; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Greeley Stout, a man of true character and commitment, exemplifies dedication and leadership, and he is admired by his fellow Tennesseans for his tireless efforts to excel, always guided by solid principles and high standards, whether in the athletic arena or in the actions of his daily life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Ralph Greeley Stout upon his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee, commend him for his substantial legacy as a community leader, sports official, and public official, and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.